Matt Stevens, Co-Chair, At-Large
Bruce Morris, At-Large
Richard Gardner, At-Large
Felicity Waldron, At-Large
Joe Korbuszewski, District 1
Rubén Casas, Co-Chair, District 2
Austin Goble, District 3
Bronwyn Clarke, District 4
Penny Grellier, District 5
Kerri Hill, City Manager Appointed
Christiano Martínez, City Manager Appointed

City of Tacoma
Transportation Commission

Final Meeting Minutes

Meeting: **Transportation Commission**
Time: **Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 5:30 P.M.**
Place: **Hybrid: Zoom or 747 Market Street, Room 243**

Join by computer, click on the following link:

https://zoom.us/join **or** **https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82666348811**

Join by Phone: **(253) 215-8782** Meeting ID: **826 6634 8811**

I. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Co-Chair Casas called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM, and CM Waldron presented the land acknowledgement.

II. Roll Call

CM Goble, CM Martínez, and CM Korbuszewski were all absent. All other commissioners were present for all or part of the meeting.

III. Review of Minutes (April 15, 2026)

CM Clarke moved to adopt the minutes. Co-Chair Stevens seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Topics

One written public comment was received from Steve Sr. and Carol Hiatt, property owners near 96th Street South. The commenters expressed interest in learning more about the Pacific Avenue Subarea Plan, noted that they and other nearby property owners were previously unaware of the effort, highlighted ongoing investment and challenges in the corridor, and provided questions and feedback on stakeholders, zoning, infrastructure, public outreach, and the proposed alternatives. Overall, they supported continued growth and Transit-Oriented Development opportunities while emphasizing the importance of engaging local property owners.

V. Business Items (5:45)

a) Connect Tacoma: Safe Streets and Sidewalks Levy (Information) – Joe Franco, Public Works Dept.

Joe Franco presented an update on the Connect Tacoma Levy, including information previously discussed and details about the ballot measure that will appear on the August 4 ballot. He explained the levy's three main goals: safer streets for everyone, better neighborhood streets, and improved connections. The proposal shifts the focus from residential streets to arterial streets and is expected to generate about $200 million in levy revenue, along with $90 million in grants and $30 million through partnerships. Examples of projects were shared for each category, including improvements to street paving, pothole repairs, sidewalks, traffic calming, freight mobility, safe routes to school, ADA accessibility upgrades, trails, and multimodal transportation connections. Joe also reviewed the funding structure and noted that the budget allocations for the three categories are codified and must be followed.

Commissioners asked several questions about the levy and public outreach efforts. Joe clarified that the city would not take ownership of all sidewalks and that responsibility would remain with property owners.

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Commissioners also asked about outreach plans, impacts on renters and apartment owners, and how residents would receive information about the measure. Joe explained that city staff have limits on what outreach they can do but are providing information through neighborhood councils and community meetings. CM Gardner highlighted an upcoming kickoff meeting at Willard School. Commissioners suggested additional outreach strategies, including advertising near transit hubs and sharing more neighborhood-specific project examples.

Joe discussed the possibility of the Transportation Commission serving an oversight role and shared ideas for helping the public see how levy dollars are being spent, such as using visible project markers similar to those used in Seattle.

b) Pacific Avenue Subarea Plan and EIS (Discussion) – Wesley Rhodes, Planning and Development Services Dept.
Wesley Rhodes presented an update on the Picture Pacific Avenue project, a long-range plan for Pacific Avenue between I-5 and the city's southern boundary. He reviewed outreach efforts, including a mailer to about 20,000 households, an online open house, and participation in community events. Survey results showed different transportation needs among different groups, helping inform the project vision. Wesley also outlined the project timeline, reviewed the alternatives under consideration, and explained that the final preferred alternative may combine elements from multiple options. He discussed proposed zoning changes, including simplifying zoning categories and exploring a new employment-focused zone that would allow commercial and light industrial uses.

Commissioners asked questions about outreach effectiveness, transportation policies, and zoning options. Wesley said outreach had generally been successful and highlighted efforts to meet residents where they are, such as at parent-teacher conferences. He clarified that reducing auto dependence could include measures like limiting drive-throughs and setting parking maximums. Commissioners suggested providing local examples of zoning types during outreach. As well, Commissioners asked about future development projections, transportation impact fees, and tools to encourage development, such as a vacancy tax. Staff noted that some of these topics would likely be addressed through the Environmental Impact Statement process.

VI. Other Business/Updates (6:45)

a) Pacific Avenue Sub-Area Plan Advisory Committee (CM Gardner)
Update included as part of business item (b) above.

VII. Staff Reports (7:00)

a) Staff Updates
Public Works is merging with Environmental Services to become Department of Environment and Public Works

b) Status of Grant Applications and Major Capital Projects
Grants:
The Regional Transportation Program (RTP) Grant is being pursued to support active transportation outreach, open streets events, and efforts to encourage mode shift. It will support one full time position.

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Major Capital Projects:
No updates were provided.

c) Upcoming Public Meetings and Events
June 18 – Fern Hill Walk and Talk with CM Walker.

July 8, 5:00–7:00 PM – Portland Avenue Vision Zero Open House at Portland Avenue Park.

Two surveys:
ADA Transition Plan

Portland Avenue Vision Zero Projects Survey

VIII. Commissioner Comments

CM Clarke announced that she will not continue serving on the Commission due to time constraints. She shared appreciation for her time on the Commission.

CM Grellier encouraged everyone to participate in and celebrate Ride Transit Month.

CM Gardner noted that the Fern Hill area has recently received significant attention, including an e-bike giveaway event, the 84th Street Road Safety Audit. Additionally, he noted a recent news article highlighting concerns on North 21st Street.

IX. Public Comment

No public comment

X. Adjourn (7:30)

Co-Chair Casas adjourned meeting at 7:19 PM

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Future Agenda Items

Parking Code Update, Budget, I-5 Crossings Study, ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

Public Comment

The public may give oral comments related to agenda topics at the beginning of the meeting and general comments will be heard at the end of the meeting. Speakers will have anywhere from 90 seconds to three minutes to provide comment, depending on time availability. The public may submit comments in writing by 5:00 PM one day prior to the meeting. Written comments should be emailed to cwilhelme@tacoma.gov and include "Transp Commission Meeting Comment" in the subject line.

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